

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 161735Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1793
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0564

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: THREE DAY EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY PROTEST MEETING AGAINST
'REPRESSION' PLANNED IN BOLOGNA

REF: FLORENCE 0561

1. TO THE GREAT SURPRISE OF ALL CONCERNED AND TO THE
CONSIDERABLE EXASPARATION OF MANY, THE CITY AND PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS OF BOLOGNA CAVED IN ALMOST COMPLETELY TO THE
DEMANDS OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE SUBJECT MEETINGS. THESE
AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE AT LEAST FOUR CITY SQUARES
AND THE LARGE BOLOGNA SPORTS PALACE FOR THESE MEETINGS AND
CAMPING AREAS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE
MEETINGS. IN ADDITION, THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
BOLOGNA HAS AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE AT LEAST FOUR SEPARATE
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS FOR SMALLER MEETINGS AND TO OPEN THE
UNIVERSITY EATING FACILITIES WHERE ATTENDEES CAN OBTAIN MEALS
AT GREATLY SUBSIDIZED PRICES.

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2. THE PREFECT OF BOLOGNA HAS TOLD A GROUP OF INQUIRING
JOURNALISTS IN A SERIES OF VERY VAGUELY WORDED SENTENCES THAT
MORE OR LESS ADD UP TO QUOTE NO OBJECTION END QUOTE. HE NOTED
THAT THE REAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANTING PERMISSION FOR
THESE MEETINGS WAS THAT OF THE CITY AUTHORITIES AND THAT HE
AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INTERVENE ONLY IF THEY THOUGHT THAT

THERE WAS A THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER. BY INFERENCE, ONE CAN SAY THAT HE DID NOT AT THIS TIME BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION WOULD BE NECESSARY. IN FACT, HE HAS HANDED THE 'HOT POTATO' BACK TO THE CITY AUTHORITIES.

3. THE STATEMENTS OF THE PREFECT AND THOSE OF THE APPROPRIATE CITY AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS UNDERLINED THE EXISTENCE OF A STICKY TECHNICAL POINT WHICH STILL MUST BE RESOLVED. THESE AUTHORITIES HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CORRECT PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING PERMISSION FOR THE MEETINGS AND FOR GRANTING THE REQUESTED FACILITIES REQUIRE A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM SOMEONE WHO CAN SPEAK FOR AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANIZERS OF

THE MEETINGS. (FOR EXAMPLE, THIS MIGHT BE THE LOCAL PARTY SECRETARY OF A RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTY OR THE PRESIDENT OF ANY PRIVATE ORGANIZATION.) THUS, THE DIFFICULTY FOR THE ORGANIZERS OF THESE MEETINGS IS THAT THERE IS PRESENTLY NO AGREEMENT AMONG THEM AS TO WHO CAN SPEAK FOR THEM. MOREOVER, THE CURRENT ATTITUDE OF THE ORGANIZERS IS THAT THEY DO NOT WISH ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP TO SPEAK FOR ALL OF THEM. IN SUM, WE HAVE THE MAKINGS OF AN IMPASSE REGARDING THIS MATTER.

4. COMMENT: FROM WHAT WE CAN ASCERTAIN, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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CITY, PROVINCIAL AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE IN TO THE DEMANDS OF ORGANIZERS IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WILL REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE. THERE IS ALSO THE FACT THAT PCI DOES NOT WISH TO ANTAGONIZE ANY FURTHER FAR LEFT EXTRAPARLIAMENTARIANY READ EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.
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Disposition History: n/a
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